

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated June 30, 2010. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.113.

Summary of the Examiner's objections and rejections

Claims 1-3, 13, 18-21, 31 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Echigo (US 2003/0217091).

Claims 4-7, 10, 17, 22-25, 28, 30 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Echigo (US 2003/0217091) in view of Kimoto (US 2002/0094028).

Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 14-16, 26, 27, 29, and 32-34 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of amendments

Applicant has canceled claims 8 and 26 (without prejudice), and amended claims 1, 9, 14, 19 and 27. No new subject matter has been added.

Remarks regarding objected claims

Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 14-16, 26, 27, 29, and 32-34 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 19 to respectively include the limitations of the previously submitted claims 8 and 26. In addition, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 27 to respectively include the limitations of the previously submitted claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the removal of this objection and the allowance of the pending claims 1-7, 9-25, and 27-36.

Remarks regarding the §102(e) and 103(a) rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that the 102(e) and 103(a) rejections are moot in view of the current amendment. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the removal of these rejections and the allowance of the pending claims 1-7, 9-25, and 27-36.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the application to be in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all objections and rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 1-7, 9-25, and 27-36.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees for this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1379.

Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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